

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5877

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2858

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, GE, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN-GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS; ITALIAN-EAST GERMAN
RELATIONS

REF: STATE 035618

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED WITH THE CHIEF OF THE MFA'S EASTERN EUROPEAN
SECTION (VECCHI) THE POINTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL ABOUT THE INCLUSION
OF A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY IN CONSULAR CONVENTIONS WITH THE GDR.
VECCHI WAS WELL AWARE OF CURRENT US THINKING BASED ON REPORTING
FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

2. VECCHI STATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ITALIAN-GDR CONSULAR
CONVENTION HAVE LONG BEEN DORMANT, THE LAST NEGOTIATION SESSION
HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN 1974. THE EAST GERMANS PERIODICALLY RAISE
THE QUESTION OF RESUMING THE TALKS, BUT THE ITALIANS HAVE MERELY
TAKEN NOTE OF THEIR INITIATIVES. VECCHI OBSERVED THAT THERE IS
A POSSIBILITY THAT EAST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER OSCAR FISCHER
WILL VISIT ROME WITHIN THE NEXT TWO OR THREE MONTHS AND
THIS COULD WELL RESULT IN RENEWED PRESSURE ON THE ITALIANS TO
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RESUME THE NEGOTIATIONS.

3. VECCHI WAS VAGUELY AWARE OF A BELGIAN DESIRE TO HAVE SOME MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE COUNTRIES CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING CONSULAR AGREEMENTS WITH THE GDR. FOR THE TIME BEING, HE INDICATED THAT THE ITALIANS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND EXPECT TO RECEIVE WEST GERMANY THINKING ON POSSIBLE CONSULAR CONVENTIONS WITH THE GDR WHEN THE MFA'S SECRETARY GENERAL MANZINI PAYS A VISIT TO BONN IN EARLY MARCH. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT INDICATE OPPOSITION TO MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT A EUR:CE OFFICER WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATIONS IN BRUSSELS THE WEEK OF MARCH 16.

4. ASIDE FROM A POSSIBLE VISIT FROM FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, ANOTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENT IN ITALIAN-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS IS THE ITALY DECISION TO PERMIT THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN EAST GERMAN MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE GDR'S EMBASSY IN ROME. THE ITALIANS HAVE NO INTENTION OF ASSIGNING A MILITARY ATTACHE TO THEIR EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN. VOLPE

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